word ''redskins'' by one of the NFL's richest franchises. It is absolute absurdity.

Mr. Goodell's response is indicative of the Washington football franchise's own racist and bigoted beginnings. The team's founder, George Preston Marshall, is identified by historians as the driving force behind the effort to prevent African Americans from playing in the NFL. And once African Americans were allowed to play in 1946, Marshall was the last club owner to field an African American player—a move he reluctantly made some 14 years later in 1962. It should be noted that Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy presented Marshall with an ultimatum—unless Marshall signed an African American player, the government would revoke his franchise's 30-year lease on the use of the D.C. Stadium.

Congressman TOM COLE, the Representative from Oklahoma, Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, and a member of the Chickasaw Nation, states: ''This is the 21st century. This is the capital of political correctness on the planet. It is very, very, very offensive. This isn't like warriors or chiefs. It's not a term of respect, and it's needlessly offensive to a large part of our population. They just don't happen to live around Washington, DC.''

Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM, the Representative from Minnesota and Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, states that Mr. Goodell's letter ''is another attempt to justify a racial slur on behalf of [Mr.] Dan Snyder,'' owner of the Washington franchise, ''and other NFL owners who appear to be only concerned with earning ever larger profits, even if it means exploiting a racist stereotype of Native Americans. For the head of a multi-billion dollar sports league to embrace the twisted logic that '[r]edskin' actually 'stands for strength, courage, pride, and respect' is a statement of absurdity.''

Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, the Representative from the District of Columbia, states that Mr. Snyder ''is a man who has shown sensibilities based on his own ethnic identity, [yet] who refuses to recognize the sensibilities of American Indians.''

Recently, in an interview with USA Today Newspaper, Mr. Snyder defiantly stated, ''We'll never change the name. It's that simple. NEVER—you can use caps.'' Mr. Snyder's statement is totally inconsistent with the NFL's diversity policy.

Let me be clear on this—I love and respect Mr. Snyder's people. They gave to mankind the Torah, the Bible, the Koran—the prophets like Adam, Methuselah, Enoch, Moses, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—and yes, and even our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

But I also want to remind Mr. Snyder that six million of his people were gassed, tortured, murdered, and even skinned by the Nazis to make lamp shades and other forms of horrifying experimentations. Time will not allow me to elaborate further. But let me be clear—I would be among the first to defend Mr. Snyder and his people against racial intolerance. All I ask is for Mr. Snyder to do the same for our Native Americans.

Despite the Native American community's best efforts before administrative agencies and the courts, the term ''redskins'' remains a federally registered trademark. It has been well over twenty years and this matter is still before the courts. This injustice is the result of negligence and a cavalier attitude demonstrated by a federal agency charged with the responsibility of not allowing racist or derogatory terms to be registered as trademarks. Since the Federal Government made the mistake in registering the disparaging trademark, it is now up to Congress to correct it.

REAL JUSTICE AND MILITARY JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Today, I'd like to highlight two very important topics: real justice and military justice. As a recent case of sexual abuse illustrates, they are far from one in the same.

Last fall, Lieutenant Colonel James Wilkerson was convicted of sexual assault by a military jury. The assault took place in Wilkerson's own home, as his wife and child slept upstairs. The all-male jury—four colonels and one lieutenant colonel—was unanimous in their ruling: guilty. Wilkerson was sentenced to 1 year in prison, a less than honorable discharge, and a loss of benefits. Three months later, General Craig Franklin, a three-star general who had originally called for the court-martial, overturned the punishment. General Franklin has no legal training. Wilkerson was free and clear and reinstated on Active Duty.

Now, that's quite a reversal, you'd say. There must have been some ironclad, watertight, slam-dunk evidence for a general to negate a jury of five officers, right? Some silver-bullet testimony? Sorry, no. In this case, the reasoning for the general's stunning intervention was ''character.'' The general simply felt that Wilkerson was a ''doting father and husband.'' You know, a family man.

Okay, you say. Maybe the general considered solid evidence that calls the entire night into question. Sorry, no. It turns out General Franklin relied on evidence that was ruled inadmissible in court. Evidence like letters of support from Wilkerson's wingmen, who had his back. On the other hand, he ignored the results of a polygraph test that Wilkerson had failed.

Wait a minute, you say. Maybe this one terrible act was an isolated incident, horrible as it was. Sorry, no. Earlier this month, the Air Force acknowledged that Wilkerson had previously fathered a child through an extramarital affair. Adultery is a crime in the military, but only inside a 5-year statute of limitation. This crime from 8 years ago is no longer punishable. And it was kept quiet by the Air Force. Why? Because they say the Privacy Act prevented the disclosure of those actions without Wilkerson's permission. Can you believe that?

Those are the facts of the case. Currently, Wilkerson is slated to receive full military benefits, including a pension and health care, for life. And this is what military justice currently looks like. If the Uniform Code of Military Justice allows for such negligence and obstruction, then the Code is more than just outdated and ineffective; it's broken. It's damaging the military itself.

It's also obvious to any legal expert that General Franklin was out of his depth and overmatched in this situation. Is he a lawyer? No, he's not a lawyer. But you keep these proceedings in the chain of command and you get bias. You get a travesty. You get no justice at all.

Today, I'm demanding real justice. The Air Force needs to redeem itself. I call on the Air Force to convene an involuntary discharge board. For Wilkerson's gross misconduct, the Secretary of the Air Force should also do a grade determination and assess whether Wilkerson should be demoted to his rank at the time of his first offense. I've sent a letter to the Secretary demanding these actions. Twenty-five of my colleagues in the House have joined me and signed the letter.

We've heard repeatedly how bad this problem is. There are 26,000 cases of sexual assault a year. A tiny fraction of those are reported. It's rare that a case like the Wilkerson one ever gets to this stage. And when it does, look what happens. Zero tolerance evaporates and becomes zero accountability. Victims suffer all over again. The military continues to look inept, incompetent, arrogant, and unjust to everyone but to themselves.

In the meantime, we are left to describe this ongoing problem in any number of ways: a plague, a cancer, or simply a national embarrassment. Should we even consider this type of justice—this sham of military justice—worthy of our country and our values? I say ''no.'' I believe the American people would say a resounding ''no'' as well.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.